

Applicants : Eric David Harper, *et al.*
Appl. No. : 10/736,038
Examiner : Murali K. Dega.
Docket No. : 20503-4023

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTINGS OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system for controlling the use of a software application on a plurality of computers, the system comprising:
a plurality of computers, each computer of the plurality of computers capable of running a given software application,
a server having a server store,
communication ~~means~~ channels respectively permitting communication between each ~~said computer of the plurality of computers~~ and ~~said the~~ server, and
a transaction arrangement operable respectively between each ~~said computer of the plurality of computers~~ and ~~said the~~ server ~~by way of said via the~~ communication ~~means channels~~ for enabling a predetermined use of ~~said the~~ given software application by ~~respective ones of said each computer of the plurality of computers~~,
~~in which said wherein the~~ server controls ~~said the~~ predetermined use of the given software application by one computer of the plurality of computers by means of said transaction arrangement and according to conditions stored in ~~said the~~ server store, wherein the given software application and the one computer are identifiable by the server using a license, and wherein the license is returnable by

the one computer to the server for use by another computer of the plurality of computers.

2. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~in which said, wherein the~~ transaction arrangement determines access of each ~~said~~ computer of the plurality of computers to ~~said the~~ given software application.
3. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~in which said, wherein the~~ transaction arrangement determines parameters of operation for ~~said the~~ given software application.
4. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~in which said, wherein the~~ server controls the number of ~~said the plurality of~~ computers ~~authorised~~ authorized to run ~~said the~~ given software application.
5. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~in which said, wherein the~~ given software application comprises ~~at least one a~~ computer program operable under ~~the~~ license, and ~~in which said wherein the~~ transaction arrangement comprises ~~a~~ license management ~~means~~ system for verifying the availability for ~~a respective said each~~ computer of the plurality of computers of a said the license for ~~said at least one the~~ computer program.
6. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 5 ~~in which said, wherein the~~ license management ~~means further comprise means for controlling~~ system controls license rights available under ~~said the~~ license, and ~~means for configuring said respective~~ configures each computer of the plurality of computers to operate according to ~~said the~~ license rights.

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7. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 5 ~~in which said, wherein the~~ license management ~~means comprise said server store, said server store for storing system stores~~ therein different possible license rights available under said the license, ~~selection means for selecting at least one~~ selects a license right of said the license rights from said the server store, and ~~activation means for activating said at least one~~ activates the license right for ~~a respective said~~ each computer of the plurality of computers.
8. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 7 ~~in which said license management~~ means further comprise a store at said respective, wherein the each computer of the plurality of computers for storing stores details of ~~said at least one~~ the license rights, and ~~means for updating said stored updates~~ details on use of said the computer program.
9. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 5 ~~in which said, wherein the~~ license management ~~means are adapted to~~ system transfers a the license from one computer of said the plurality of computers to another computer of said the plurality of computers.
10. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 9 ~~in which said, wherein the~~ license management ~~means are arranged to~~ system inhibits operation of said the computer program on said the one computer following said the transfer.
11. (Currently amended) A license management system for controlling the use of ~~at least one~~ a given software application respectively on a plurality of computers, said the license management system comprising:

an application store associated with each said computer of the plurality of computers for storing a copy of said the given software application;

a ~~remote data~~ license store for storing information concerning a license to operate ~~said at least one~~ the given software application, wherein the given software application comprises a computer program operable under the license;

a ~~remote data~~ software identification store for storing identification information relating to ~~said at least one~~ the given software application;

a ~~remote data~~ computer identification store for storing identification information relating to each ~~said~~ computer of the plurality of computers; and

a transaction arrangement operatively linking ~~said~~ the application store, ~~said~~ the license store, ~~said~~ the software identification store and ~~said~~ the computer identification store, ~~said~~ the transaction arrangement being responsive to a request from a ~~respective said one~~ computer of the plurality of computers for use of ~~said at least one~~ the given software application to verify whether ~~said at least one~~ the given software application is available for use by ~~said respective the one~~ computer of the plurality of computers and to transmit to ~~said respective the one~~ computer a ~~said~~ the license to use ~~said at least one~~ the given software application in the event that ~~said at least one~~ the given software application is so available, wherein the license is returnable by the one computer to the server for use by another computer of the plurality of computers.

12. (Currently amended) A license management system according to claim 11 comprising a server providing ~~said~~ the license store, ~~said~~ the software identification store and ~~said~~ the computer identification store.

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13. (Currently amended) A license management system according to claim 11 ~~in which said,~~
wherein the server controls the number of said licenses available for the given software application.
14. (Currently amended) A license management system according to claim 13 ~~in which said,~~
wherein the server is adapted to transfers a license from one said computer of the plurality of computers to another said computer of the plurality of computers.
15. (Currently amended) A license management system according to claim 14 ~~in which said,~~
wherein the server is arranged to inhibits operation of said the computer program on said the one computer following said the transfer.
16. (Currently amended) A license management system according to claim 11 further
 comprising a further license store provided at each said computer of the plurality of computers for storing locally information concerning said the license.
17. (Currently amended) A license management system according to claim 11 ~~in which said,~~
wherein the transaction arrangement determines parameters of operation for said the
given software application.
18. (Currently amended) A license management system according to claim 11 ~~in which the~~
said, wherein the transaction arrangement comprises means for verifying the verifies
license rights available under ~~a said the~~ license.
19. (Currently amended) A license management system according to claim 11 ~~in which said,~~
wherein the license store has a data store for storing therein different possible license
rights available under said the license, and in which said wherein the transaction
arrangement comprises selection means for selecting at least one said selects a license

right of the license rights from said store, and activation means for activating said at least one activates the license right for a respective said each computer of the plurality of computers.

20. (Currently amended) A license management system according to claim 19 ~~in which said activation means comprise a license rights store associated with said respective, wherein each computer of the plurality of computers for storing stores details of said at least one the license rights, and means for updating said updates the license rights store according to the current state of said at least one the license right on use of said the computer program.~~

21. (Currently amended) A computer of a plurality of computers programmed to perform a transaction for enabling the operation of a given software application, the transaction ~~arrangement~~ comprising:
 creating a license file for a license to operate ~~said the~~ given software application, wherein the license is returnable by one computer of the plurality of computers to the server for use by another computer of the plurality of computers;
 assigning to ~~said the~~ license file a serial number representing ~~said the~~ given software application;
 assigning to ~~said the~~ license file an identification code representing ~~said the~~ computer;
 transmitting to a server a request to execute ~~said the~~ given software application;
~~transmitting with said , the request including said the~~ serial number and ~~said the~~ identification code;

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in response to a ~~server~~ reply from the server updating the license file with information concerning the availability of ~~said the~~ license; and reading ~~said the~~ license file for establishing whether ~~said the~~ given software application can be executed.

22. (Currently amended) A computer programmed according to claim 21 ~~in which said,~~ wherein the transaction arrangement further comprises :

in response to ~~said server the~~ reply from the server updating ~~said the~~ license file with details of license rights transmitted from ~~said the~~ server; and configuring ~~said the~~ computer according to ~~said the~~ license rights to execute a predetermined software feature incorporated in ~~said the~~ given software application.

23. (Currently amended) A method for controlling the execution of a given software application ~~on a plurality of computers~~ in a computer system, the computer system including a server and a plurality of computers, ~~said the~~ method comprising ~~the steps of:~~ creating a license file on ~~a respective said one~~ computer of the plurality of computers for a license to operate ~~said the~~ given software application, wherein the license is returnable by the one computer to the server for use by another computer of the plurality of computers;

~~license~~

license assigning to the license file an identification code representing ~~said respective the~~ one computer;

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formulating a request to execute ~~said~~ the given software application at ~~said-respective~~ the
one computer, ~~said~~ the request including a serial number associated with ~~said~~ the
given software application and ~~said~~ an identification ~~number~~ code of the one
computer;

transmitting ~~said~~ the request with ~~said~~ the serial number and ~~said~~ the identification code
to ~~a~~ the server;

in response to a reply from ~~said~~ the server updating the license file with information
concerning the availability of ~~said~~ the license; and

reading ~~said~~ the license file for establishing the status of ~~said~~ the license at ~~said-respective~~
the one computer.

24. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 23 further comprising:

storing at ~~said~~ the server information concerning license rights available under ~~said~~ the
license;

in response to ~~said~~ the request from ~~said-respective~~ the one computer selecting ~~respective~~
license rights to be applied to ~~said-respective~~ the one computer and transmitting
details of ~~said~~ the selected rights to ~~said-respective~~ the one computer;

in response to ~~said-server~~ the reply from the server updating ~~said~~ the license file with
details of ~~said~~ the selected license rights transmitted from ~~said~~ the server; and
configuring ~~said~~ the one computer according to ~~said~~ the selected license rights to execute
a predetermined software feature incorporated in ~~said~~ the given software
application.

25. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 24 further comprising:

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updating ~~said~~ the license file on an ongoing basis during use of ~~said~~ the predetermined feature by ~~said~~ ~~respective~~ the one computer to record a current state of ~~said~~ the license; and

when ~~said~~ the license is no longer required transmitting details from ~~said~~ the updated license file of ~~said~~ the current state to ~~said~~ the server.